

## RIGHT HANDED FOLKS

WHY ARE THEY SO VERY LARGELY IN THE MAJORITY?

There Are Two Factors In the Problem, an Inherited Tendency and Constant Practice—The Origin of the Innate Proclivity.

That the great majority of persons use the right hand with greater skill than the left is doubtless due to two influences—an innate proclivity and constant practice. The preference shown by most infants at the age of one year for the use of the right hand proves that there is an inherited tendency. Further evidence of it is found in the greater ease with which any entirely new act is performed by the right than by the left hand. Training, however, is an important factor. A mature person, having lost the right hand by accident, can achieve wonders with the other if he only exercises patience, perseverance and a strong will.

The more mysterious of the two factors in this problem is the inborn tendency. How did it arise? There are exceptions to the rule. Perhaps two out of every hundred babies are left handed. But when you stop to think of it the natural inclination of the other ninety-eight is remarkable. A great many physiologists have speculated in regard to its cause without reaching any conclusion upon which all could agree.

Dr. George M. Gould says in the Popular Science Monthly that right handedness is so thoroughly ingratiated in human nature that it must have been partially developed in the savage ancestors of the race. Primitive man, in his opinion, must have felt a definite need for the exercise of his right hand in preference to his left, and that necessity must have been recognized and obeyed for a long period continuously. The impulse could not well have dictated his habits in eating, for knives and forks are of recent origin, the modern gun had not been invented, and writing was practically unknown. Moreover, in such operations as chipping arrowheads, weaving baskets and welding clubs, bows and arrows it could not have mattered much which hand was employed.

When warfare had been carried to such a stage of advancement as to involve the use of a shield, however, that object was probably held on the left side in order to protect the heart. Then as a matter of convenience the right arm was left free for the more active function of fighting with spear and sword, and with habitual exercise came special skill. An attendant phenomenon was a finer organization of that particular center in the brain which controlled these movements and which was situated in the left half of the organ. The brain is the real seat of all dexterity, and something takes place there in correspondence with external efficiency. With an increased use of the right hand, Dr. Gould thinks, there must have been greater demands upon the right eye, because vision must precede the order to strike or to give peaceful signals. In this way there may have been developed a keener power of vision in the right eye than in the left. Dr. Gould assumes that there was and declares that "right handed people are right eyed" and that in their brains the center of vision is on the left side, in close proximity to that governing the right arm.

While civilization was yet at a low level communication was carried on, especially with strangers, largely in the sign language. Barter laid the foundations of arithmetic and called into play the digits. The preference already given to the right hand in battle may have guided men in the choice for this service and also in official and social ceremonies. Computation, Dr. Gould points out, was an intellectual process which was conducted in the speech center of the brain. Nature was compelled to take sides in locating the latter, and she placed it to the left of the middle. Dr. Gould thinks that the choice was governed by the employment of the right hand for giving signals. So intimately related are the functions of speech and vision and the control of the muscular efforts with the right arm that action would be quicker if the cerebral centers controlling them were closely associated.

Before discussing the cause of left handedness Dr. Gould calls attention to the fact that with right handed people the left hand is occasionally called upon to perform a task of greater importance than its mate. In eating the fork is used more than the knife. In playing a violin or violoncello the fingerling is done with the left hand and the bowing with the right. It is suggested that some of these operations may result from the superiority of the right eye. Perhaps the latter can watch and guide them better when they are performed with the left than with the right hand.

## Natural Cross of Pearls.

Some curious things have been found in the briny deep, but one of the odder is an ecclesiastical emblem made of pearls which was washed ashore on the coast of West Australia. There are nine good sized gems in this natural curiosity. These have been joined together to form a perfect Latin cross. Seven pearls of equal size comprise the upright and two more form the transverse piece. The joining has been the work of nature. The odd prize, discovered in a pearl oyster, is said to be worth at least \$50,000. It is called the Great Southern Cross pearl.

## Both.

Bass—And of which variety is your wife, the clinging vine or the self assertive? Bass—A little of both. When she wants a new dress or a new hat she generally begins in the clinging vine role. If that doesn't bring the money, then she changes to the self assertive, and—well, she invades you and that on the opposite side acquired increased power. Dr. Gould says that the speech center was also transferred from the left side to the right of the brain in consequence. In the transmission of the cerebral peculiarity to offspring he finds the key to the manifestation of left handedness at a tender age. New York Tribune.

Experience is a jewel, and it need be so, for it is often purchased at an infinite rate.—Shakespeare.

"Why does he wish to marry her?" "He says people should marry their opposites."

"Why, they are both dark."

"Yes, but he hasn't a cent, and she has a million dollars."—Pittsburg Post.

If you get angry with a man or woman, make up your mind what you are going to say and then don't say it.

Shakespeare.

Notice of Settlement.

"You don't agree, then, that 'seeing is believing'?"

"Not much! I see some people every day that I never could believe."—Philadelphia Ledger.

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Dated March 20, 1905.

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